

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

VITAL STATISTICS, 1947 - (PRELIMINARY).

The following preliminary particulars for 1947 are published subject to slight revision, with particulars for 1946 in parentheses.

BIRTHS - 16,317 (15,813). The number of births registered had fallen irregularly from 12,904 in 1914 to 11,492 in 1927, from which year there was an almost continuous fall to 8,270 in 1935, but from 1935 there has been an increase each year! The total for 1947 shows an increase of 504 on 1946 and of 8,047 on 1935. The record number of births registered in earlier years was 12,904 in 1914, and this has now been exceeded by 3,413. However it must be remembered that the population in 1914 was only 445,000 compared with 646,000 for 1947! The 1914 births were equal to 28.97 per 1,000 of the population and it would have required 18,700 births for 1947 to represent a similar rate. The rate had fallen to 14.14 per 1,000 of the population in 1935, increasing to 24.85 in 1946 and 25.25 in 1947. The 1947 rate is the highest since 1917.

Although the 16,317 births registered during 1947 was a record for any calendar year, there was a falling off during the later months. During the twelve months ended July 1947, there were 17,613 registered, but the number during the later months represented an annual rate of not quite 16,000.

When it is noted that there were 59,287 births during the 5 years 1920-24, 43,061 during 1932-36 and 72,619 during 1943-47, it will be realised that problems will arise in future in such circumstances as numbers of children attending school and numbers leaving to commence employment.

SEXES OF BIRTH - The number of boys compared with 100 girls born during each of the last few years have been:- 1943 - 106.17; 1944 - 104.38; 1945 - 104.41, 1946 - 105.26 and 1947 - 105.71.

ADOPTIONS - The number of adoptions has increased rapidly. Ten years ago the number was around 100, increasing to 355 in 1944, 417 in 1945, 455 in 1946 and 403 in 1947.

LEGITIMATIONS numbered 21 (28)

DEATHS - 6,215 (6,461) were registered during the year a decrease of 246 on the previous year. Commencing from 1921 there had been a general, though irregular, fall in the death rate until 1933 when the rate of 8.44 was the lowest on record. From that year there had been an irregular rise to the rate of 10.99 in 1942 since when the rates have been 10.53; 9.62; 9.62; 10.15 & 9.62. At this date it is not possible to give details of the number of deaths from the various causes for 1947.

INFANTILE MORTALITY - The deaths of children under 1 year totalled 396 a decrease of 32 on the total of 428 for 1946. The infantile death rate represents the number of deaths of children under 1 year per 1,000 births. During the last 70 years there has been a remarkable drop in the infantile death rate, - from a rate of 150 per 1,000 births in the period 1870 - 1880 to a rate of less than 30 in recent years. Usually New Zealand has the world's lowest infantile death rate with South Australia often second and once lowest. In 1946, New Zealand was lowest with 26.10 and South Australia next with 27.07. For the first 9 months of 1947, New Zealand's rate was 24.94 compared with only 24.34 for South Australia. The South Australian rate for the full year was 24.27 but the New Zealand rate is not yet available. The State rate has been halved during the last 20 years.

Deaths of infants from principal causes during 1947 (1946 in parentheses) were - Diarrhoea etc. 15 (19). Congenital Malformations 84 (51). Premature Births 129 (150). Congenital Debility 9 (12). Injury At Birth 1 (44). Other Diseases peculiar to early infancy 41 (51). Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis 3 (1). Meningitis - (4). Whooping Cough - (2), Diphtheria - (1). Measles - (3), Convulsions 2 (-), Bronchitis 2 (1), Pneumonia 30 (40). Hernia etc. - (4) Diseases of the Ear etc. 5 (10) and all other causes 5 (35).

There were 131 (136) deaths of children under 1 day, 161 (162) of children from 1 day to 1 month, and 104 (130) of those from 1 month but under 1 year. Although the figures vary from year to year, the greatest improvement compared with earlier years has been in respect to deaths of children from 1 month to 1 year old.

STILL BIRTHS. These are not included in either Births or Deaths, and number 387 (416).

MARRIAGES. 6,668 (6,700), a decrease of 32. Marriages in the Registration Office totalled 579 (498). The number of marriages had been just over 4,500 in 1926 and 1927, but fell to 3,069 in the depression year of 1931 from which the number increased yearly and reached 6,950 in 1940. The figures from 1941 to 1947 have been uniformly high though varying, the successive figures being 6,855; 8,129; 6,263; 6,019; 5,321; 6,700 and 6,668. A rather surprising feature is that the mean marriage age has varied by only decimal points since first calculated in 1908. In 1931 when there were only 3,069 marriages the mean age for males was 28.67 and for females 25.14 and yet in 1942 when there were 8,129 marriages the mean was 28.65 for males and 25.63 for females. For 1946, the male mean was 28.75 and female 25.57.

Christmas and Easter Marriages. It had been the custom for large numbers of marriages to be celebrated at Christmas and Easter. There was the record number for any one day of 245 on the Saturday before Christmas in 1941 and 525 during the 8 day period Saturday to Saturday at Christmas time that year. Also, there were 392 during Easter week in 1942. Since then there have not been the large numbers at Christmas and Easter, although there were increases for 1947 with 152 on the Saturday before Christmas and 375 for the 8 day period and 230 during Easter week.

SUMMARY RETURN - The following return shows the number of births, deaths and marriages and the rate per 1,000 of mean population and the number of infantile deaths and the rate per 1,000 births.

Period	Births		Marriages		Deaths			
					Total		Infants	
	No.	Rate (a)	No	Rate (a)	No	Rate (a)	No	Rate (b)
Mean								
1920-24	11,857	23.43	4,326	8.55	4,901	9.68	693	58.45
1925-29	11,301	20.16	4,225	7.54	5,034	8.98	526	46.54
1930-34	8,989	15.54	3,660	6.33	5,001	8.65	342	38.05
1935-39	9,039	15.32	5,305	8.99	5,430	9.20	297	32.85
1940-44	11,743	19.16	6,843	11.17	6,235	10.17	406	34.57
1945-47	15,388	24.15	6,230	9.78	6,242	9.80	406	26.38
Year								
1943	13,145	21.36	6,263	10.18	6,482	10.53	482	36.67
1944	13,311	21.40	6,019	9.68	5,984	9.62	387	29.07
1945	14,033	22.31	5,321	8.46	6,049	9.62	394	28.08
1946	15,813	24.85	6,700	10.53	6,461	10.15	428	27.07
1947	16,317	25.25	6,668	10.32	6,215	9.62	396	24.27

(a) Per 1,000 of Mean Population (b) Per 1,000 Births.

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